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E.O. 12958, Sec. 2.5

ARMY SERVICE FORCES
HEADQUARTERS, SIXTH SERVICE COMMAND
CHICAGO 6, ILLINOIS

RECEIVED
JUN 25 1945

JJM/jes
19 June 1945

IN REPLY REFER TO:
SPJIB 452.161

SUBJECT: Alleged Japanese Incendiary Bomb Found Near
Farmington, Michigan

TO: Commanding General
Headquarters Western Defense Command
Presidio of San Francisco, California
Attention: Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2

Attached for your information is carbon copy of a letter from this office to the President, Chemical Warfare Service Board, and memorandum re Subject dated 15 June 1945, both of which are self explanatory.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

F. A. Calvert Jr.
F. A. CALVERT, JR.
Lt. Colonel, F. A.
Chief, Intelligence Branch,
Security and Intelligence Division.

2 Incls.

- #1 - cc ltr SPJIB 452.161, 19 Jun 45
- #2 - cc memo dtd 15 Jun 45

cc - CG, EDC, Att: AC of S, G-2 w/incls.
Pres, CWSB, Edgewood Arsenal, Md.

Record Group 338, Box 34
Western Defense Command, G-2 section
Washington National Records Center
National Archives

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ARMY SERVICE FORCES
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IN REPLY REFER TO:
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SUBJECT: Alleged Japanese Incendiary Bomb Found Near
Farmington, Michigan

TO: President, Chemical Warfare Service Board
Edgewood Arsenal, Maryland

1. Forwarded under separate cover is an object appearing to be part of a Japanese incendiary bomb which was turned over to Army authorities by the Michigan State Police on 12 June 1945. This object was originally found during the latter part of April, 1945 by Mr. John T. Cook, Sr., 20251 Gill Road, Farmington, Michigan, as he was spading the garden in back of his home. At that time he thought nothing of it and the object laid on the ground in the open until 7 June 1945.

2. The object appears identical with the lower portion of the Japanese incendiary bomb illustrated on page 31 of the Confidential booklet "A Study of Japanese Free Balloons" prepared by Headquarters Western Defense Command, which covers all incidents from the period 4 November 1944 to 10 February 1945.

3. This evidence is forwarded to you in accordance with existing directives on handling Japanese balloon incidents.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

F. A. CALVERT, JR.
Lt. Colonel, F. A.,
Chief, Intelligence Branch,
Security and Intelligence Division.

cc - CG, WDC, Att: AC of S, G-2
CG, EDC, ATT: AC of S, G-2
CG, WDGS, G-2



INQUIRY CONCERNING ALLEGED
JAPANESE INCENDIARY BOMB
15 June 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE:

1. On the above date this agent interviewed Mr. John T. Cook Sr., 20951 Gill Road, Farmington, Michigan. Mr. Cook was interviewed in connection with the inquiry into an object found by him, which appears to be part of a Japanese incendiary bomb.

Cook stated that some time during the latter part of April, 1945, he was spading the garden in back of his home when he came upon an object which he believed to be a tin can. At the time he picked it up on the end of his shovel, and tossed it aside. It laid where he had thrown it until 6 June 1945, when he was working in the garden and found it necessary to move it again. The following day Cook read an article in the paper concerning Japanese Balloons, which advised the readers to turn over all suspicious looking articles to the police. On 8 June 1945 he examined it more closely and on seeing the grooves in the wood section of the object, decided to give it to a neighbor, William Redt, who is a Sergeant on the Michigan State Police Force, stationed at Redford, Michigan.

Cook further stated that he does not know how long the object had been in his garden. The day he found it was the first day he had been working in his garden this spring. He related that neither he nor his wife at anytime heard any explosion or saw any fire in the vicinity. Cook mentioned, however, that at the time he gave the object to his neighbor, Redt, the latter related that he and his wife thought they had seen a fire in the area where Cook found the object some months ago.

When Cook first found the object it was lying perpendicular to the ground at a slight angle, with about three (3) inches of the base embedded in the dirt. He stated that at the time of its discovery, it looked like a new tin can as the material had a bright metallic finish. Later when he turned it over to the police the metal was rusty, as the object had been left on the ground where it was exposed to the elements.

Agent's Note: This agent conducted a thorough search of the entire area in the vicinity of the place where Mr. Cook located this object but was unable to uncover anything else which might be of value in this investigation.

2. On the above date Mr. and Mrs. William Redt, 34550 Redt Road, Farmington, Michigan, were interviewed. Mr. Redt is a sergeant on the Michigan State Police Force attached to the Redford Station, Redford, Michigan.

John E. Golden, Special Agent, SIC, District 6th SC

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INQUIRY CONCERNING ALLEGED
JAPANESE INCENDIARY BOMB
15 June 1945

These informants stated that some time during the latter part of March, 1945, at approximately 4 p.m. on a Sunday afternoon they were sitting in their living room. At the time Mrs. Redt heard a muffled report similar to a shot, and happened to look out the window. She noticed a fire in an open lot, approximately three quarters of a city block, northeast of their home. Mrs. Redt called her husband's attention to the matter and he likewise noticed the flames, but thought they were probably caused by a bon fire. According to the Redts the fire lasted approximately three (3) minutes, and then flames were seen to spurt from the locality of the fire and Redt thought they were similar to those which he had seen caused by magnesium. The fire then died out and the matter was forgotten until Mr. Cook (Memo 1) gave Sergeant Redt the object which he found in his garden.

When the Redts first saw the fire it was on the ground and gave no appearance of coming from an object hurtling through the air. They placed the location of the fire on a piece of property which they stated belongs to Earl Westphal, 20909 Gill Road, Farmington, Michigan. According to the Redts, this property has been plowed up for cultivation by Westphal since they saw the fire. The Westphal property adjoins the Cook property where the object was found.

Agent's Note: The place where the Redts stated they saw the fire was approximately fifty (50) feet south of where Cook located the alleged bomb. It was this agent's opinion that the informants could be mistaken in the exact locality of the fire as their point of observation was some 200 yards distant, and their line of vision was obstructed by trees and other shrubbery. The informants were unable to give the exact date of this fire. They placed it as close as they possibly could to the latter part of March, and based this estimate on the visit of family relatives.

3. On the above date Mr. Earl Westphal, 20909 Gill Road, Farmington, Michigan was interviewed. Mr. Westphal is the owner of the property where the Redts alleged they saw a fire some time in March, 1945.

Westphal stated that he has been cultivating the property in the rear and contiguous to his home for some years. During April, 1945, he plowed it up again and states that at that time he saw no indication that a fire had taken place on his property.

Agent's Note: This agent conducted a thorough search of the entire area in the vicinity of the place where the Redts stated they saw the fire but was unable to uncover any evidence which might be of value in this investigation.

John E. Golden, Special Agent, SIC, District #1, 6th SC